

**Statement of Natasha Carolina**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**February 23, 2017**

Good evening Connecticut Legislators and Senators and to whom else this may concern:

My name is Natasha Carolina. I live in Waterbury, CT. I have lived in Waterbury for over 10 years. The concern for housing is serious. Connecticut Legal Rights Project represented me in dealing with my landlord, who was refusing to make repairs in my apartment, where the dangerous conditions caused me serious injury. The federal government had even stopped paying the landlord my rent subsidy because of how bad things were. I needed to find a new place to live and could not do it on my own, and Section 8 was threatening me to take away my voucher, even though the reason I had to move in the first place was the landlord's fault. CLRP stepped in and fought for me. They got me extra time to find a new apartment, and got the size of my voucher increased as an accommodation of my disability. They intervened to put pressure on my case manager to give me the level of help and support I needed in searching for a new place, and they got the landlord to sign an agreement in court saying that he would give me back my full security deposit so I could use it to move to my new place. Today, thanks to CLRP, I live in a beautiful, safe, warm apartment and can focus on other things like participating in the Special Olympics and being a member of my community. It is scary to think where I would be now if I hadn't had CLRP on my side. I would be homeless and scared, living on the street, unsafe and cold and without access to the health care I need.

At CLRP, I know they care, and I know they are here for the right reasons to protect my rights. If CLRP wasn't here to help me, I would definitely be homeless again, all because of the

illegal and discriminatory actions of my previous landlord. I rely on CLRP to protect my legal rights in the community and to make sure that my mental health providers treat me with respect and dignity which I deserve. I trust CLRP, they help low income people with disabilities and listen to us when no one else will and they help when others take advantage. I have used CLRP's help for many issues, but my housing problem was the biggest and the scariest for me. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE CLRP AWAY FROM ME AND OTHERS WHO RELY ON THEIR HELP!!

Thank you.